



**Representative
SYLVIA LUKE**

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2008 Legislative Update

Rep. Sylvia Luke

Nuuanu • Pauoa • Pacific Heights • Papakolea • Punchbowl

2007-2008 Funding for District Schools and Community Organizations

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Kawananakoa Middle School
Electrical System Improvements **\$475,000**

Lincoln Elementary School
Rock Wall Repairs and Drainage Improvements **\$940,000**

Pauoa Elementary School
Electrical System Improvements and Re-roofing **\$610,000**

Stevenson Middle School
Master Planning of School Facilities **\$550,000**

Addition to Building A or stand-alone multipurpose educational facility **\$7,200,000**

Plans and design for multipurpose recreational facility **\$1,500,000**

REPAIR & MAINTENANCE

Kawananakoa Middle School **\$461,000**

Lincoln Elementary School **\$316,000**

Nuuanu Elementary School **\$106,000**

Pauoa Elementary School **\$88,000**

Roosevelt High School **\$385,000**

Royal Elementary School **\$54,000**

Stevenson Middle School **\$218,000**

WHOLE SCHOOL RENOVATION

Nuuanu Elementary School **\$2,000,000**

Royal Elementary School **\$2,000,000**

GRANT-IN-AID

Papakolea Community Development Corporation **\$248,925**

Dear Neighbor,

Aloha! As your State Representative, I am truly grateful for the privilege of serving you and all the people of Hawaii. This year, I continued to serve on the following committees: Judiciary, Consumer Protection & Commerce, Labor & Public Employment, Public Safety & Military Affairs, and Transportation.

I would like to share with you the accomplishments of the 24th Legislature. This update provides highlights of some of the measures passed this session that address the needs of our community. Among these measures are those that protect our precious natural resources, provide funding to address the aging infrastructure of our public schools and improve facilities at the University of Hawaii. We also established an early learning system to give our children a head start in developing the educational tools that will help them succeed and we provided for the use of ignition interlock devices to prevent vehicles from being operated by intoxicated drivers.

I remain committed to working with you towards making our community and Hawaii a better place to live. Please keep in touch with me about your concerns. If you ever have any questions or require my assistance, please feel free to contact me anytime.

With warmest aloha,

Sylvia
Sylvia Luke
State Representative
District 26

Education a Priority in Tough Budget Year

The Legislature this year kept its promise of ensuring quality educational facilities for all students. From our public schools to the University of Hawaii, education remained a top priority. The state budget includes \$100 million for whole school classroom renovations statewide and \$66.4 million for school building repair and maintenance. The budget also includes over \$60 million for the repair and maintenance of University of Hawaii facilities across the state.

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Spending Wisely

The State Budget. Responded to the immediate needs of Hawaii's people while crafting an appropriate budget for the current state economy. The 2008 appropriations take a fiscally prudent approach to enhancing the quality of life for Hawaii's people by, among other things:

- Providing funding to address the aging infrastructure of our public schools and improve University of Hawaii facilities;
- Facilitating harbor and airport modernization projects and highway improvements;
- Supporting statewide energy conservation and efficiency projects;
- Providing shelter and affordable housing; and
- Increasing access to health care and emergency medical services (HB2500).

Caring for the Environment

Land Conservation Incentives Tax Credit. Encouraged the preservation and protection of land by establishing a Land Conservation Incentives Tax Credit to allow taxpayers to deduct 50 percent of the value of the interest in lands donated or amount invested in management of lands for conservation purposes, up to \$1,000,000 per donation, from their net income tax liability, up to a maximum of \$1,000,000 in the aggregate for all qualified taxpayers for all years (SB2198).

Updating the Environmental Review System. Appropriated \$300,000 for the Legislative Reference Bureau to contract with the University of Hawaii to conduct a study of the State's environmental review process, such as its effectiveness; environmental, economic, social, and cultural issues unique to Hawaii; and larger concerns and interests related to sustainable development,



On Friday, March 7, 2008, Sylvia participated in the annual "Read-to-Me Day" program at Lincoln Elementary School by reading to Ms. Tanaka's 5th grade class.

global environmental change, and disaster-risk reduction (HB2688).

Promoting Sustainability and Energy Conservation

Solar Energy Devices. Increased the use of renewable energy to protect Hawaii's environment by:

- Requiring the installation of solar water heater systems in all new residential development projects constructed after January 1, 2010, unless a variance is approved; and
- Restricting the Solar Thermal Energy System Tax Credit available for single-family residential properties to those for which building permits were issued prior to January 1, 2010 (SB644).

Renewable Energy Development.

Established the position of Renewable Energy Facilitator to increase the efficiency of permitting renewable energy projects and the Energy Security Special Fund to support programs to meet Hawaii's renewable energy goals (HB2505).

Clotheslines; Common Sense Energy Saving. Encouraged the use of clotheslines to dry clothes, instead of using electric clothes dryers that use over ten percent of many households' total electric consumption, by prohibiting undue or unreasonable restrictions against the use of clotheslines at single-family residential dwellings and townhouses (SB2933).

Keeping Hawaii Healthy

Children's Health Insurance; Business Closures. Assisted children of parents affected by certain business closures between February 29, 2008, and September 30, 2008, by making health insurance available under the Hawaii Children's Health Care Program, if the child does not have other health coverage available to them. These provisions expire on December 31, 2008 (SB69).

Family Caregivers; Paid Family Leave. Supported family caregivers by establishing a working group to explore methods of providing wage replacement benefits to a caregiver needing time off from work to care for a family member with a serious health condition (HB2520).

Building a B Highlights of the 2008



Sylvia was honored to speak to excited students and proud parents at the Pauoa Elementary School graduation ceremony on Tuesday, June 3, 2008.

Investing in Education

Early Learning. Helped Hawaii's children reach their full potential as individuals and citizens by, among other things:

- Establishing the Keiki First Steps early learning system to ensure a spectrum of high-quality early learning opportunities for children throughout the state, from birth until the time they enter kindergarten, with priority given to underserved or at-risk children;
- Creating the Early Learning Council to develop and administer the system;
- Establishing the Keiki First Steps Grant Program component of the system to increase early learning opportunities that meet high standards of quality through the awarding of grants to certain public or private programs and services; and
- Promoting the development of early learning facilities (SB2878).

UH; Capital Improvement Projects. Ensured that the University of Hawaii (UH) remains a premier institution of higher learning by providing safe and modern facilities for its students, including much-needed improvements, by appropriating among other things:

- \$71,207,000 for repair and maintenance projects at UH campuses statewide, including community colleges;
- \$35,883,000 for the renovation of and additions to the UH-Manoa Campus Center Complex;
- \$7,518,000 for a new classroom building at UH-Manoa;
- \$22,000,000 for a regional biocontainment laboratory facility on Oahu; and

Better Hawaii

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- \$25,000,000 for a science building at Maui Community College (HB2500).

UH; Budgeting. Improved the state's higher education system by:

- Requiring the University of Hawaii (UH) to prepare an annual incentive and performance report and plan that will assist the Legislature in appropriating up to two percent of UH's annual budget to facilitate UH's strategic plan and related state goals; and
- Establishing a task force to assist UH in developing a budgetary system that includes an equitable, consistent, and responsive funding formula for the distribution of fiscal resources to the various UH campuses (HB2978).

Improving Traffic Safety and our Transportation Infrastructure

Inter-Island Airlines; Regulation. Protected the inter-island air-transportation needs of residents of and visitors to Hawaii by establishing a statutory scheme for the regulation of inter-island air carriers in Hawaii by an Air Carrier Commission (HB2250).

Highway Safety; Driving Under the Influence.

Promoted safety on Hawaii's roadways by, among other things:

- Requiring the installation of an ignition interlock device (ignition interlock), which prevents the starting or operating of the motor vehicle of a person with more than a minimal alcohol concentration, into the motor vehicles of persons who were arrested for driving under the influence of an intoxicant (DUI), while their cases are pending and while their licenses are revoked;
- Prohibiting drivers under the age of 18 and arrested for DUI from driving during the period preceding the driver's eighteenth birthday and subjecting them to the ignition interlock requirement for the remainder of the license revocation period;
- Allowing the issuance of permits authorizing the use of a vehicle without ignition interlock if the operation of the vehicle is required for employment and specifying when permits shall not be issued;
- Allowing the courts discretion to either require license suspension or requiring a one-year license revocation and installation of an ignition interlock for a first DUI offense; and
- Increasing license revocation periods for highly intoxicated drivers and repeat DUI offenders (HB3377).



Sylvia was happy to congratulate Lincoln Elementary School graduates on Friday, May 30, 2008.

Pedestrian Safety; Crosswalk and Intersection Improvements.

Improved pedestrian safety by appropriating \$1,000,000 for the Department of Transportation to conduct a pilot study to identify state and county intersections where the time to cross the intersection is insufficient for elderly pedestrians and to implement immediate improvements to high-risk crosswalks and road crossings, provided that the department may consult with the counties and non-profit organizations as appropriate for purposes of the pilot study (HB357).

Improving Government

Campaign Spending. Worked toward making the election process fairer by establishing a pilot project for a comprehensive public funding program for the County of Hawaii Council elections in 2010, 2012, and 2014; and amended Hawaii's Campaign Spending Law to:

- Establish penalties for failure to file a report and for filing a substantially defective or deficient campaign spending report;
- Increase the State income tax check-off amount from \$2 to \$3 for deposit into the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund; and
- Increase the amount of a candidate's surplus funds that may be contributed to community services and other organizations (HB661).

Disclosure of News and Journalism

Sources; Shield Law. Established a limited privilege against the compelled disclosure of sources and unpublished

information to any branch or agency with the power to compel testimony for persons involved in news gathering and reporting (HB2557).

Protecting our Children

Teacher Licensure; Sexual Offenses.

Ensured the safety of our students in the public schools by requiring the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board to suspend a teacher's license when the teacher has been convicted of certain sexual offenses against a minor, and to initiate proceedings to permanently revoke the teacher's license (SB2080).

Leaving a Child in a Motor Vehicle.

Protected Hawaii's children by:

- Prohibiting operators and adult passengers of motor vehicles from leaving the vehicle with an unattended child inside for five minutes or more; and
- Requiring that knowledge of the prohibition be tested on the driver's examination and that rental car companies provide notice of the prohibition to renters (SB2245).

Endangering the Welfare of a Minor.

Increased protections for minors by expanding the offense of endangering the welfare of a minor to include causing or permitting a minor to inject, ingest, or inhale any controlled substance listed in schedules I through IV not prescribed by a physician, excluding the medical use of marijuana, and exempting nursing mothers (HB2346).

Safeguarding our Communities

Scrap Dealers and Recyclers; Copper Sales. Deterred copper theft by requiring scrap dealers and recyclers to:

- Pay for copper by check payable to the seller; and
- Mail the check to the address shown on the seller's photo identification issued by a government agency, or arrange for the check to be picked up personally by the seller at the place of business of the scrap dealer or recycler (HB2589).

Electronic Monitoring. Protected victims of domestic violence from their abusers by establishing a two-year pilot project allowing the courts to:

- Prohibit contact with the victim by establishing court-defined geographic exclusion zones;
- Require the abuser to wear a global positioning system device designed to transmit and record the abuser's location; and
- Require the victim and police to be notified when the abuser enters a geographic exclusion zone (SB2218).



On Friday, March 14, 2008, Local artist and Nuuanu resident Peggy Chun was honored by the State Legislature for completing her mosaic of Father Damien with the help of students from Holy Trinity School. The mosaic is currently on display at the Vatican. Left to right: Senator Sam Slom, Sylvia, Peggy Chun and Representative Gene Ward.

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Sex Offender Registry. Increased the public's right to know and therefore their safety by amending Hawaii's sex offender registry laws to provide more up-to-date and more useful information about registered sex offenders (HB3040).

Protection of Vulnerable Adults. Protected adults who are vulnerable and unable to fully care for themselves by expanding the types of abuse from which vulnerable adults are protected and expanding the authority to investigate allegations of abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation (SB2150).

Pseudoephedrine; Sales; Electronic Log. Enhanced law enforcement agencies' ability to track and prevent the purchase of pseudoephedrine-containing products for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamines by requiring pharmacies and retailers to maintain an electronic log of such product sales and transmit the information to the Department of Public Safety's Narcotics Enforcement Division on a monthly basis (SB2373).

HELPING CONSUMERS

Government Protection of Personal Information. Enhanced the security of personal information collected and maintained by government agencies by implementing the recommendations of the December 2007 report of the Hawaii Identity Theft Task Force, including:

- Requiring government agencies to designate an employee in charge of policies to protect personal information and to develop guidelines to minimize unauthorized access to personal information; and
- Establishing the Information Privacy and Security Council to, among other things, assess initiatives to mitigate the impacts of identity theft and identify best practices to help government agencies improve the security of personal information (SB2803).

Education a Priority continued from page 1

According to Sylvia, "Public education from Kindergarten to UH received our full support this session despite the projected slowdown in our economy. The legislature fulfilled its commitment towards ensuring quality educational facilities and programs for all students."

Sylvia is pleased to announce that funds were included in the budget for district schools and community organizations.

"Area legislators worked together to secure necessary funding for our district schools and community organizations," said Sylvia.

Over the past two years, Sylvia and other district legislators were able to secure over \$11.2 million in capital improvement projects, over \$1.6 million for repairs to district schools, \$4 million for whole school renovations, and over \$240,000 for the Papakolea Community Development Corporation.

Sylvia is also happy to announce that the Governor finally released funds appropriated last year for much needed



Sylvia enjoyed spending time with parents and students while serving dinner at the annual "Celebration of Excellence" at Kawanakoa Middle School on May 14, 2008.

electrical upgrades at Kawanakoa Middle School. Design is scheduled to begin in August 2008 and be completed in January 2010. Construction is scheduled to begin in August 2009 and be completed in June 2011.

In addition, the long awaited air conditioning upgrades for buildings F & G at Lincoln Elementary School will begin in the near future. The Department of Education notified Sylvia and Sen. Carol Fukunaga that the contract was finally awarded in May 2008.

Roosevelt High School also celebrated the unveiling of the new Ticky Vasconcellos Stadium by holding its 2008 graduation ceremony there. The \$4.5 million renovation includes state-of-the art artificial turf field, synthetic all-weather track, new track and field facilities, and a new concession stand. This innovative public, private, and corporate partnership will be a model for funding future school projects.

According to Sylvia, "As a Roosevelt alumna, I am proud to have been a part of this project. I commend everyone who participated in making this dream a reality for our alma mater."

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